D.O. No. P.C. 25/Sm 1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DEWAN OF MYSORE

Ballabrooie,
Bangalore,
29th August 1925.

3824

My dear Sir,

Referring to the correspondence ending with your confidential D.O. of the 10th August on the subject of the official tours of the Dewan, more especially with reference to his acceptance of caskets from private persons and public bodies, I request that you will be good enough to submit to His Highness, my further explanations on one or two points that, in my opinion, should be cleared up as I feel that there is some misapprehension in regard to them.

I quite understand and it is perfectly clear from the instructions that have now been issued as to what should be done in t h e future and as directed by His Highness, his views in the matter - will now be placed on record in clear and unequivocal terms and in order to ensure that this is done, I herewith submit, on a separate sheet, the necessary amendment to be embodied in the - Rules for the Conduct of Public Servants which, as they stand, require amendment in certain respects.

It is, however, in regard to what has taken place during the past tours of the Dewan that I wish to state a few facts to show that the matter was not altogether free from doubt and that t h e practice has not been uniform throughout. Although I do not wish to urge that, had the instructions that are now issued been laid down in clear terms on any previous occasion by His Highness, there would not have been any difficulty in the matter, but as I have - already explained in my previous letter, I had conducted two extensive tours in August 1922 and January 1923, in the course of which addresses with caskets were presented to me and I can only say that I <u>honestly believed</u> that this was sanctioned by custom and precedent.

I notice that you refer to rules which <u>every official is pre-</u>

presumed to know. I have looked into the rules relating to the conduct of Public Servants and as represented to His Highness in person, I find that the Dewan is an exception to these rules and I think it is a matter of common knowledge that when addresses are presented to the Dewan, they are presented in some form of casket or other. I see the force of His Highness' objection to the acceptance of caskets by the Dewan on the ground of unnecessary expenditure being incurred by public bodies and it will now be definitely laid down in the rules that no expenditure on caskets should be incurred. This will meet the point satisfactorily.

I might, however, be permitted to point out that in the rules recently issued by the Government of India, the head of any Local Government or Administration or any Member of the Governor's or Governor-General's Executive Council is exempted from the operation of the rules regarding the acceptance of any article, such as trowel, key, etc., offered to him at a ceremonial function. I believe in practice the Mysore Dewans have, while receiving addresses, accepted caskets and, at other ceremonial functions, accepted trowels, keys etc. I have searched in vain for any reference or correspondence regarding this matter in the Dewan's confidential references and I have not been able to trace any ruling to the contrary. Now that His Highness' wish that caskets should not be received by the Dewan has been definitely expressed, I shall see that all necessary steps are taken to carry out his instructions in the matter.

I regret very much that, in connection with this general question, a reference was made in your letter to the recent entertainment given by the Vokkaligara Sangha. I am reminded that it was necessary to obtain the previous permission of His Highness for the acceptance of the complimentary address and casket. But as I find no rule yet issued on the subject, I now request instructions whether this should now be made clear by issuing a rule to that effect. I would respectfully invite His Highness'

attention to Rule 19, paragraph 285 printed on page 76 of the - Manual of Circulars and Standing Orders from which it appears to me clear that the Dewan may receive a complimentary or valedictory address without previous sanction. A personal explanation is called for from me in this matter. As His Highness himself is the August Patron of the Sangha, I had reason to believe that the proposal to present the address was duly communicated to the Private Secretary who had also received a formal invitation to be present at the entertainment, and I considered that there was no need for me to go through any formality in the matter. I would have been deeply grateful if the Private Secretary had given me any kind of hint regarding this aspect of the question before the entertainment actually took place and I should have been only too glad to cancel the whole arrangement.

I am asked to state how the instructions given to me in regard to my recent tours were carried out by the Officers and others concerned. I beg to state in reply that I have the official report of the Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore to the effect that no public subscriptions were raised by the local officers for receiving the Dewan in any of the places in the District. The functions were organised by the Municipalities and Taluk Boards at the several places and the addresses relating to the local wants were read in Kannada and informal discussions took place, in which all the representatives present took part. I may add, for the information of His Highness, that when sanction of Government was applied for for incurring some expenditure for the presentation of the addresses to the Dewan during his tours, as voted by the Councils and the Taluk Boards, it was pointed out that no sanction of Government was necessary for Town and Minor Municipalities and that Taluk Boards had no power to spend any part of their funds on public receptions. In spite of this ruling, however, it has come to my notice that the Devanhalli, Nelamangala and Dodballapur Taluk Boards did vote certain sums of money and a Government Order will be issued pointing out

that their action was ultra vires. As regards the Municipal Councils, the official reports indicated that they voted certain sums of money as in the margin for the presentation of addresses to the Dewan.

1. Devanhalli Municipal Council.	- Rs.75	I beg also to report
2. Vadigenahalli -do-	- " 25	
3. Devanhalli Taluk Board.	- " 100	that as your confidential
4. Magadi Municipal Council.	- " 100	
5. Nelamangala -do-	- " 100	letter of the 25th July
6. Thyamagondlu -do-	- " 50	
7. Nelamangala Taluk Board.	- " 100	communicating to me His
8. Dodballapur Taluk Board.	- " 150	
9. Dodballapur Municipal Council.	- " 150**	Highness' wish in the -
10. Yelahanka Municipal Council.	- " 100	

matter of receiving - addresses and caskets had been received by me before I actually proceeded on tour on the 27th, I took particular care not to - accept the caskets that were brought for presentation when the addresses were read. No permission was obtained previously and no mention of caskets was made by the Municipal Councils when they applied through the Deputy Commissioner for sanction to incur certain expenditure. So I had no idea that arrangements had been made for inclusion of expenditure for caskets also in connection with addresses. Although, therefore, the caskets were not accepted on the spot, after the close of each function these articles were sent to the Dewan's camp later, and in one instance, even after refusal it was sent to Bangalore three days after the tour was over. I must state also that no casket was accepted or even subsequently sent fro Dodballapur. As it - appears that both local and Municipal Councils and the Taluk Boards joined together in presenting the addresses, the procedure was unauthorised and also against the express provision of the law so far as Taluk Boards are concerned and it is not possible to regularise the procedure. The only course that was left open, therefore, was to point out the error to the Boards through the Deputy Commissioner and return all the articles to the local bodies concerned. This has accordingly been done.

Yours sincerely,

Amin-ul-mulk
Mirza M. Ismail, O.B.E., C.I.E.,
Private Secretary to His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore.

CSR.